

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment
April 10, 2007

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

COE members:

Catherine Tunis

Albert Nunez

Tim Male

Jonathan Wrotny

Kea Woodruff

Jane Powers, Takoma Park citizen

Barbara Beelar, Takoma Park citizen and former Committee member

Meeting called to order at 7:39 pm.

Tim moved to approve March minutes. Albert second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Catherine will send an email to community list-serves with a listing of upcoming events including Arbor Day, the e-cycling event, and the rain barrel workshop.

Tim shared an idea for next year's Arbor Day to increase interest – sponsor a “biggest tree” contest and publicize information about some of Takoma Park's famous large trees. Catherine agrees that COE should take a PR role in promoting the event, hopes that a tree inventory will be completed by next year to provide better data about existing large trees. Catherine would like to have Committee members work on the inventory and recruit teams for surveying this summer.

Barbara asked about Casey Trees (DC organization) as a source of funding.

Catherine attended City Arborist Todd Bolton's Council presentation last month and reported that he was effective in getting Council to focus on the amount (basal area) of trees cut vs those planted and the need to increase the tree canopy.

Catherine believes 50 flyers about the rain barrel workshop will be needed to hand out at Arbor Day. Kea will make copies. Catherine will get copies of other Committee handouts. COE members should show up at 9:30 to set up and staff table.

Kea will email COE members a list of tools needed for the rain barrel workshop. Albert will lend some tools. Jonathan, Catherine and Kea are available to do a dry-run for the workshop on April 21st. Tim and Catherine are available to help the day of the workshop. Catherine is available the day before the workshop to do the pre-drilling. Kea will also email Mar-E to see if she is available. Catherine will also contact Mar-E. Kea has not

heard from David Hauck of the Sierra Club re the volunteer request ads in their newsletter.

Mercury switch update: Catherine reported the bill died in the House committee again. Catherine will contact the tributary teams and ask them to get involved. Catherine hopes to do more publicity on the issue this year and Tom hucker agreed to re-introduce the bill next year.

Albert reported that a solar energy bill passed which will give credits to individuals using solar energy – a 15 year clause in the bill requires utility companies to pay individual solar electricity producers for excess production (minus the value of transmission). Albert will email the details to Catherine; she will forward to COE.

Long Branch trail construction update: Catherine will contact the mayor and Councilmember Colleen Clay about walking through the proposed area to show them why it is opposed by local environmental groups. Catherine will email COE when a date is set.

Catherine's article re Arbor day and Jack's article with Catherine's announcement re electronics recycling were published. Catherine also submitted an article on florescent bulbs and household hazardous waste for May. Kea is working on a Clean Energy Rebate article.

Albert is written up in the weekly staff report re solar energy work on the Community Center – Catherine will forward.

The City website does not yet have presentations posted from the Green Building workshop. Barbara would like to see a follow-up email to attendees. She would like to organize a meeting for attendees to share stories and resources of how they are applying what they learned in the workshop.

Jonathan would like to see more types of plastic recycled in Takoma Park. He does not have time to research it yet.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.